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Report of the Disarmament Commission

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Note

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Chapter I

Introduction

1. At its fifty-second session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 52/40 B of 9 December 1997, entitled "Report of the Disarmament Commission", which reads as follows:

"*The General Assembly,*

"*Having considered* the report of the Disarmament Commission,[1]

"*Recalling* its resolutions 47/54 A of 9 December 1992, 47/54 G of 8 April 1993, 48/77 A of 16 December 1993, 49/77 A of 15 December 1994, 50/72 D of 12 December 1995 and 51/47 B of 10 December 1996,

"*Considering* the role that the Disarmament Commission has been called upon to play and the contribution that it should make in examining and submitting recommendations on various problems in the field of disarmament and in the promotion of the implementation of the relevant decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session,

"1. *Takes note* of the report of the Disarmament Commission;[1]

"2. *Reaffirms* the importance of further enhancing the dialogue and cooperation among the First Committee, the Disarmament Commission and the Conference on Disarmament;

"3. *Also reaffirms* the role of the Disarmament Commission as the specialized, deliberative body within the United Nations multilateral disarmament machinery that allows for in-depth deliberations on specific disarmament issues, leading to the submission of concrete recommendations on those issues;

"4. *Encourages* the Disarmament Commission to continue to make every effort to enhance its working methods so as to enable it to give focused consideration to a limited number of priority issues in the field of disarmament, bearing in mind the decision it has taken to move its agenda towards a three-item phased approach;

"5. *Requests* the Disarmament Commission to continue its work in accordance with its mandate, as set forth in paragraph 118 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly,[2] and with paragraph 3 of Assembly resolution 37/78 H of 9 December 1982, and to that end to make every effort to achieve specific recommendations on the items of its agenda, taking into account the adopted 'Ways and means to enhance the functioning of the Disarmament Commission';[3]

"6. *Welcomes* the fact that, pursuant to the adopted three-item phased approach, the Disarmament Commission, at its 1997 organizational session, adopted the following items for consideration at its 1998 substantive session:

"(a) The establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at among the States of the region concerned;

"(b) The fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament;

"(c) Guidelines on conventional arms control/limitation and disarmament, with particular emphasis on consolidation of peace in the context of General Assembly resolution 51/45 N of 10 December 1996;

"7. *Requests* the Disarmament Commission to meet for a period not exceeding four weeks during 1998 and to submit a substantive report to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session;

"8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to transmit to the Disarmament Commission the annual report of the Conference on Disarmament[4] together with all the official records of the fifty-second session of the General Assembly relating to disarmament matters, and to render all assistance that the Commission may require for implementing the present resolution;

"9. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to ensure full provision to the Disarmament Commission and its subsidiary bodies of interpretation and translation facilities in the official languages and to assign, as a matter of priority, all the necessary resources and services, including verbatim records, to that end;

"10. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-third session the item entitled 'Report of the Disarmament Commission'."

2. The Disarmament Commission met at United Nations Headquarters and held two meetings, on 2 December 1997 and 27 March 1998 (see A/CN.10/PV.217-218), for its organizational session. During that session, the Commission considered questions related to the organization of work for its 1998 substantive session in accordance with the adopted "Ways and means to enhance the functioning of the Disarmament Commission" (A/CN.10/137) and in the light of General Assembly resolution 52/40 B. The Commission took up the question of the election of its officers, taking into account the principle of rotation of the chairmanship among the geographic regions. The Commission considered the provisional agenda for the 1998 substantive session and decided to establish a committee of the whole and three working groups to deal with the three substantive items on the agenda. The Commission further decided that its next substantive session would be held from 6 to 28 April 1998.

Chapter II

Organization and work of the 1998 substantive session

3. The Disarmament Commission met at United Nations Headquarters from 6 to 28 April 1998. In the course of its session, the Commission held seven plenary meetings (see A/CN.10/PV.219-225) under the chairmanship of Mr. Sergei Martynov (Belarus). Mr. Timur Alasaniya, Political Affairs Officer of the Disarmament and Decolonization Organs Servicing Branch, Department of General Assembly Affairs and Conference Services, served as Acting Secretary of the Commission.

4. During the 1998 session, the Bureau of the Commission was constituted as follows:

Chairman: Mr. Sergei Martynov (Belarus)

Vice-Chairmen: Representatives of the following States: Algeria, Ecuador, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Luxembourg, Peru, South Africa and Syrian Arab Republic

Rapporteur: Mr. Vice Skračić (Croatia)

5. At its 219th plenary meeting, on 6 April 1998, the Commission adopted its provisional agenda (A/CN.10/L.42), as follows:

1. Opening of the session.

2. Adoption of the agenda.

3. Organization of work.

4. Establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at among the States of the region concerned.

5. Fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament.

6. Guidelines on conventional arms control/limitation and disarmament, with particular emphasis on consolidation of peace in the context of General Assembly resolution 51/45 N.

7. Report of the Disarmament Commission to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session.

8. Other business.

6. At the same meeting, the Commission approved its general programme of work for the session (A/CN.10/1998/CRP.1) and decided to allocate four meetings to a general exchange of views.

7. On 6 and 8 April, the Disarmament Commission held a general exchange of views on all agenda items (see A/CN.10/PV.219-222). The representatives of the following countries made statements during the general exchange of views: Algeria, Argentina, Bangladesh, Belarus, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Ecuador, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jamaica, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mexico, Mongolia, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, South Africa, Syrian Arab Republic, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (on behalf of the European Union), United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan and Viet Nam. The representative of the International Atomic Energy Agency also made a statement.

8. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 52/12 B of 19 December 1997, the Committee of the Whole devoted one meeting to a review of the Disarmament Commission's work, with a view to its revitalization, rationalization and streamlining. The matter was further considered in the course of the Chairman's open-ended consultations.

9. In accordance with the decisions taken at its organizational session, the Disarmament Commission entrusted Working Group I with the mandate of dealing with agenda item 4, entitled "Establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at among the States of the region concerned". Working Group I met under the chairmanship of Mr. Miguel Aguirre de Cárcer (Spain) and held 12 meetings between 9 and 24 April.

10. The Commission entrusted Working Group II with the mandate of dealing with agenda item 5, entitled "Fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament". Working Group II met under the chairmanship of Mr. Sudjadnan Parnohadiningrat (Indonesia) and held 15 meetings between 9 and 24 April.

11. The Commission entrusted Working Group III with the mandate of dealing with agenda item 6, entitled "Guidelines on conventional arms control/limitation and disarmament, with particular emphasis on consolidation of peace in the context of General Assembly resolution 51/45 N". Working Group III met under the chairmanship of Mr. Matia Mulumba Semakula Kiwanuka (Uganda) and held 10 meetings between 9 and 24 April.

12. At its 224th plenary meeting, on 28 April, the Disarmament Commission considered the reports of the Committee of the Whole and Working Groups I, II and III on agenda items

4, 5 and 6, respectively. The reports of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission and the conclusions and recommendations contained therein are included in section IV of the present report.

13. In accordance with past practice of the Disarmament Commission, some non-governmental organizations attended the plenary meetings.

Chapter III
Documentation

A. Documents submitted by the Secretary-General

14. Pursuant to paragraph 8 of General Assembly resolution 52/40 B, the Secretary-General, by a note dated 11 February 1998, transmitted to the Disarmament Commission the annual report of the Conference on Disarmament,[4] together with all the official records of the fifty-second session of the General Assembly relating to disarmament matters (A/CN.10/197).

B. Other documents, including documents submitted by Member States

15. In the course of the Commission's work, the documents listed below, dealing with substantive questions, were submitted.

16. Two working papers entitled "Establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at among the States of the region concerned" were submitted by the Chairman of Working Group I (A/CN.10/1998/WG.I/WP.1 and A/CN.10/1998/WG.I/WP.1/Rev.1).

17. A working paper entitled "Establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at among the States of the region concerned" was submitted by India (A/CN.10/1998/WG.I/WP.2).

18. A working paper entitled "Establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at among the States of the region concerned" was submitted by Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan (A/CN.10/1998/WG.I/WP.3).

19. A working paper entitled "Establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at among the States of the region concerned: establishing a nuclear-weapon-free space in Central and Eastern Europe" was submitted by Belarus (A/CN.10/1998/WG.I/WP.4).

20. A working paper entitled "Guidelines on conventional arms control/limitation and disarmament, with particular emphasis on consolidation of peace in the context of General Assembly resolution 51/45 N" was submitted by South Africa (A/CN.10/1998/WG.III/WP.1).

21. A working paper entitled "Guidelines on conventional arms control/limitation and disarmament, with particular emphasis on consolidation of peace in the context of General Assembly resolution 51/45 N" was submitted by Canada (A/CN.10/1998/WG.III/WP.2).

22. A working paper entitled "Guidelines on conventional arms control/limitation and disarmament, with particular emphasis on consolidation of peace in the context of General

Assembly resolution 51/45 N" was submitted by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, on behalf of the European Union (A/CN.10/1998/WG.III/WP.3).

23. A working paper entitled "Guidelines on conventional arms control/limitation and disarmament, with particular emphasis on consolidation of peace in the context of General Assembly resolution 51/45 N" was submitted by South Africa (A/CN.10/1998/WG.III/WP.4).

24. A working paper entitled "Guidelines on conventional arms control/limitation and disarmament, with particular emphasis on consolidation of peace in the context of General Assembly resolution 51/45 N" was submitted by the Niger (A/CN.10/1998/WG.III/WP.5).

25. A working paper entitled "Guidelines on conventional arms control/limitation and disarmament, with particular emphasis on consolidation of peace in the context of General Assembly resolution 51/45 N" was submitted by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on behalf of the European Union (A/CN.10/WG.III/WP.6).

26. A number of other informal working papers dealing with substantive questions were also submitted by Member States to the working groups and are referred to in the reports.

Chapter IV
Conclusions and recommendations

27. At its 224th plenary meeting, on 28 April, the Disarmament Commission adopted by consensus the reports of its subsidiary bodies and the conclusions and recommendations contained therein regarding agenda items 4, 5 and 6. The Commission agreed to submit the texts of those reports, reproduced below, to the General Assembly.

28. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted, as a whole, its report to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session.

29. The report of the Committee of the Whole reads as follows:

"Report of the Committee of the Whole

"1. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 52/12 B of 19 December 1997, the Committee of the Whole considered the work of the Disarmament Commission with a view to its revitalization, rationalization and streamlining.

"2. Based on views expressed by delegations at the meeting of the Committee of the Whole on 14 April, as well as in the course of the Chairman's intensive consultations, the Chairman of the Disarmament Commission presented an informal proposal, which is a reflection of his understanding of possible areas of agreement (annex I).

"3. It was recognized that a further discussion of the issue was required and that, in this connection, the Chairman's proposal could be used for continued consultations among Member States with a view to presenting recommendations in accordance with General Assembly resolution 52/12 B."

30. The report of Working Group I on agenda item 4 reads as follows:

"Report of Working Group I on agenda item 4

"1. The Disarmament Commission, at its 217th meeting, on 2 December 1997, approved its provisional agenda for the 1998 substantive session. It also decided to allocate agenda item 4, entitled 'Establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at among the States of the region concerned', to Working Group I, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 52/40 B of 9 December 1997.

"2. In connection with its work, Working Group I had before it the following documents:

"(a) Working paper submitted by Mongolia (A/CN.10/195);

"(b) Working paper submitted by Canada (A/CN.10/1997/WG.I/WP.1);

"(c) Working paper submitted by Japan (A/CN.10/1997/WG.I/WP.2);

"(d) Working paper submitted by Argentina, Brazil, Chile, New Zealand, South Africa and Uruguay (A/CN.10/1997/WG.I/WP.3);

"(e) Working paper submitted by South Africa (A/CN.10/1997/WG.I/WP.4);

"(f) Working paper submitted by the United States of America (A/CN.10/1997/WG.I/WP.5);

"(g) Working paper submitted by the Netherlands, on behalf of the European Union (A/CN.10/1997/WG.I/WP.6);

"(h) Working paper submitted by Algeria, Bahrain, Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, the Sudan, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen (A/CN.10/1997/WG.I/WP.7);

"(i) Working paper submitted by Israel (A/CN.10/1997/WG.I/WP.8);

"(j) Working paper submitted by Belarus (A/CN.10/1997/WG.I/WP.9);

"(k) Working paper submitted by the Syrian Arab Republic and Lebanon (A/CN.10/1997/WG.I/WP.10);

"(l) Working paper submitted by China (A/CN.10/1997/WG.I/WP.11);

"(m) Working paper submitted by Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan (A/CN.10/1997/WG.I/WP.12);

"(n) Working papers submitted by the Chairman of Working Group I (A/CN.10/1998/WG.I/WP.1 and A/CN.10/1998/WG.I/WP.1/Rev.1);

"(o) Working paper submitted by India (A/CN.10/1998/WG.I/WP.2);

"(p) Working paper submitted by Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan (A/CN.10/1998/WG.I/WP.3);

"(q) Working paper submitted by Belarus (A/CN.10/1998/WG.I/WP.4).

"3. The Working Group met under the chairmanship of Mr. Miguel Aguirre de Cárcer (Spain), and held 12 meetings between 9 and 24 April 1998. The Chairman also conducted a number of informal consultations. Mr. Timur Alasaniya and Mr. Sergei Cherniavsky of the Disarmament and Decolonization Organs Servicing Branch, Department of General Assembly Affairs and Conference Services, served as Secretary and Deputy Secretary of the Working Group, respectively.

"4. At the 1st meeting of the Working Group, the Chairman submitted his first working paper (A/CN.10/1998/WG.I/WP.1), which took into consideration last year's working papers and other submissions and which was taken by the Group as a basis for structured discussions.

"5. The considerations and discussions of the Working Group were also facilitated by the working papers submitted by delegations, mentioned in paragraph 2 above, both during last year's and this year's sessions of the Disarmament Commission.

"6. The Working Group, at the suggestion of the Chairman, devoted the first four meetings to general discussions and comments on the Chairman's paper as a whole, as well as to comments on other working papers.

"7. All working papers introduced by delegations and the Chairman will be transmitted, together with the present report, to the 1999 substantive session of the Disarmament Commission, with a view to allowing Member States to study further the ideas contained in these documents, thus preparing the ground for subsequent in-depth considerations, including considerations on the scope of deliberations, at next year's session of the Disarmament Commission.

"8. In the course of the following three meetings of the Working Group, focused discussions took place on specific elements contained in the Chairman's working paper and on a number of written and oral proposals made by delegations. The Working Group requested the Chairman to prepare a compilation of these proposals to be made available to delegations for further consideration at next year's session of the Disarmament Commission. The Working Group should remain seized of the entire range of views and proposals by delegations.

"9. Based on an analysis of those discussions and considerations, the Chairman, on 17 April, submitted two non-papers containing a non-exhaustive list of topics for further consideration and clusters of issues arising from delegations' comments on the Chairman's working paper. During the subsequent meetings, the Working Group considered the views and proposals expressed at the previous meetings. These issues might require further consideration at next year's session of the Disarmament Commission.

"10. At the 11th meeting, on 24 April, in order further to facilitate these considerations, and based on the general discussions and comments of delegations during this session, the Chairman presented, at his own discretion and without prejudice to the positions of any delegation, a revised version of his working paper (A/CN.10/1998/WG.I/WP.1/Rev.1), which is annexed to the present report (annex II). All working papers, including those presented by the Chairman, could serve as a basis for next year's deliberations on the issues at hand.

"11. At its 12th meeting, on 24 April, the Working Group considered and adopted by consensus its report on the item entitled 'Establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at among the States of the region concerned'."

31. The report of Working Group II on agenda item 5 reads as follows:

"Report of Working Group II on agenda item 5

"1. At its organizational meeting, on 2 December 1997, the Disarmament Commission decided to establish Working Group II to continue to deal with agenda item 5, entitled 'Fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament', pursuant to General Assembly resolution 52/38 F of 9 December 1997.

"2. In connection with its work, the Working Group had before it the following documents:

"(a) Working paper submitted by the United States of America (A/CN.10/1996/WG.II/WP.1);

"(b) Working paper submitted by Italy, on behalf of the European Union (A/CN.10/1996/WG.II/WP.2);

"(c) Working paper submitted by Indonesia, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries and other States (A/CN.10/1996/WG.II/WP.3);

"(d) Working paper submitted by Italy, on behalf of the European Union (A/CN.10/1996/WG.II/WP.4);

"(e) Working paper submitted by New Zealand (A/CN.10/1996/WG.II/WP.5);

"(f) Working paper submitted by the Chairman (A/CN.10/1996/WG.II/WP.6);

"(g) Working paper submitted by Indonesia, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries and other States (A/CN.10/1997/WG.II/WP.1);

"(h) Working paper submitted by the United States of America (A/CN.10/1997/WG.II/WP.2);

"(i) Working paper submitted by Canada (A/CN.10/1997/WG.II/WP.3);

"(j) Working paper submitted by China (A/CN.10/1997/WG.II/WP.4);

"(k) Working paper submitted by the Netherlands, on behalf of the European Union (A/CN.10/1997/WG.II/WP.5).

"3. The Working Group met under the chairmanship of Mr. Sudjadnan Parnohadiningrat (Indonesia) and held 14 meetings between 9 and 24 April 1998. Mr. Mohammad Sattar of the Disarmament and Decolonization Organs Servicing Branch of the Department of General Assembly Affairs and Conference Services, and Ms. Carolyn Cooper of the Department for Disarmament Affairs, served as Senior Adviser and Secretary of the Working Group, respectively. The Chairman of the Working Group also conducted informal consultations during the session.

"4. At the 1st meeting, on 9 April, the Chairman of the Working Group made a substantive introductory statement. The Working Group held a general exchange of views on the item and decided that the paper presented by the Chairman of Working Group II of the 1997 substantive session of the Disarmament Commission, which had been annexed to the report of the Commission to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session,[1] should serve as a basis for consideration of the subject at the 1998 session of the Commission.

"5. During the period from 9 to 22 April, the Working Group engaged in substantive deliberations on the paper submitted by the Chairman of Working Group II of the 1997 substantive session of the Disarmament Commission, referred to in

paragraph 4, and a revision thereto, in which the Chairman drew upon the suggestions put forward by various delegations.

"6. On 22 April, on the basis of the extensive discussion and consideration of his non-papers, the Chairman submitted a new paper.

"7. At its 14th meeting, on 24 April, the Working Group concluded that it had not been possible to reach consensus on the objectives and agenda for the fourth special session devoted to disarmament, as contained in the Chairman's paper. The Chairman's paper represented an earnest and constructive attempt to bridge the gap in the positions on the objectives and agenda for the fourth special session devoted to disarmament and to achieve a consensus. The Working Group commended the Chairman for the work he had undertaken during the 1997 and 1998 sessions of the Disarmament Commission to achieve a consensus. The Chairman's paper is annexed to the present report for possible consideration by the General Assembly when it considers the issue of the fourth special session devoted to disarmament in accordance with its resolution 52/38 F, without prejudice to the positions of Member States and their right to put forward additional proposals relating to this issue (annex III).

"8. At the same meeting, the Working Group adopted by consensus its report on the agenda item entitled 'Fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament'."

32. The report of Working Group III on agenda item 6 reads as follows:

"Report of Working Group III on agenda item 6

"1. At its 217th meeting, on 2 December 1997, the Disarmament Commission approved its provisional agenda for the 1998 substantive session (A/CN.10/L.42). Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 52/40 B of 9 December 1997, it also decided to allocate agenda item 6, entitled 'Guidelines on conventional arms control/limitation and disarmament, with particular emphasis on consolidation of peace in the context of General Assembly resolution 51/45 N', to Working Group III.

"2. In connection with its work, Working Group III had before it the following documents:

"(a) Chairman's paper of 1997;

"(b) Working paper submitted by Germany and other sponsors of General Assembly resolution 51/45 N (A/CN.10/194);

"(c) Working paper submitted by South Africa (A/CN.10/196);

"(d) Working paper submitted by Canada (A/CN.10/1997/WG.III/WP.1);

"(e) Working paper submitted by Pakistan (A/CN.10/1997/WG.III/WP.2);

"(f) Working paper submitted by Canada (A/CN.10/1997/WG.III/WP.3);

"(g) Working paper submitted by the United States of America (A/CN.10/1997/WG.III/WP.4);

"(h) Working paper submitted by China (A/CN.10/1997/WG.III/WP.5);

"(i) Working paper submitted by South Africa (A/CN.10/1998/WG.III/WP.1);

"(j) Working paper submitted by Canada (A/CN.10/1998/WG.III/WP.2);

"(k) Working paper submitted by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, on behalf of the European Union (A/CN.10/1998/WG.III/WP.3);

"(l) Working paper submitted by South Africa (A/CN.10/1998/WG.III/WP.4);

"(m) Working paper submitted by the Niger (A/CN.10/1998/WG.III/WP.5);

"(n) Working paper submitted by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, on behalf of the European Union (A/CN.10/1998/WG.III/WP.6).

"3. Several delegations addressed the Working Group on the experiences of their countries (Benin, Namibia, Niger and Uganda) with regard to questions under consideration by the Group, with special emphasis on post-conflict peace-building and consolidation of peace. Those interventions enriched the deliberations of the Working Group.

"4. Upon the request of the Working Group, the Secretariat made available background documentation on some of the experience gained by the United Nations in the application of post-conflict practical disarmament measures for the consolidation of peace, particularly in the areas of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of former combatants.

"5. The Working Group met under the chairmanship of Mr. Matia Mulumba Semakula Kiwanuka (Uganda), and held 11 meetings between 9 and 24 April 1998. The Chairman also conducted a number of informal consultations. Mr. Michael F. Cassandra of the Department for Disarmament Affairs served as Secretary of the Working Group.

"6. At its first meeting, on 9 April, the Working Group agreed to use as a basis for its work, without prejudice to the positions of delegations, the Chairman's paper of 9 May 1997, entitled 'Suggested scope/framework for future Guidelines as proposed in the title of the Working Group', contained in annex III to the report on the 1997 session of the Disarmament Commission.[1]

"7. The Working Group devoted six meetings to a part-by-part review of the Chairman's paper of 1997. While the Working Group agreed to focus its work during the session on part IV, 'Practical disarmament measures', and part V, 'Other conventional arms control/limitation and disarmament measures', the point was stressed that there was a need to consider the paper in an integral manner, and the importance of part III, 'Principles', was recalled. The Working Group thus had a brief exchange of views on parts I to III. It was noted that some of the elements contained therein require further elaboration and refinement.

"8. At the 7th meeting, on 20 April, the Chairman submitted to the Working Group an expanded non-paper on part IV 'Practical disarmament measures'. After a review by the Working Group, the Chairman submitted a revised non-paper on which full and complete discussion was not possible because of lack of time.

"9. At the 11th meeting, on 24 April, the Chairman submitted a paper to the Working Group containing part V, 'Other conventional arms control/limitation and disarmament measures'. The Working Group did not have adequate time to review the Chairman's proposal on part V.

"10. At the 11th and final meeting on 24 April, the Chairman presented, at his own discretion and without any prejudice to the position of any delegation, a revised version of his non-paper, which is annexed to the present report (annex IV).

"11. At the same meeting, the Working Group considered, and adopted by consensus, the present report."

Notes

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 42* (A/52/42).

[2] Resolution S-10/2.

[3] A/CN.10/137.

[4] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 27* (A/52/27).

Annex I

Review of the work of the Disarmament Commission in accordance with General Assembly resolution 52/12 B

Chairman's proposal for revitalization, rationalization and streamlining of the work of the Disarmament Commission

1. The Disarmament Commission continues to play a unique role within the mechanism on disarmament as the only body with universal membership for in-depth deliberation on relevant disarmament issues.

2. As of the substantive session of 1999 the substantive agenda of the Disarmament Commission should normally comprise two items per year, including one on nuclear disarmament matters. Parallel meetings of the subsidiary bodies are excluded. The possibility of a third agenda item would be retained if there were consensus to adopt such an item while maintaining overall balance in the agenda.

3. Annual substantive sessions of the Disarmament Commission last three weeks.

4. Substantive agenda items are considered in the Disarmament Commission for three years. Other options for the duration of consideration of an item, according to its specificity, may be adopted on an ad hoc basis by consensus.

5. The regional groups are urged to make possible an early election of the chairmen of the subsidiary bodies, preferably at the organizational session of the Commission in the autumn, so as to allow them to conduct inter-sessional consultations on respective subjects. It is desirable that continuity of chairmanship of the subsidiary bodies be maintained throughout the consideration of a substantive item.

6. Further optimization of the Disarmament Commission procedures, according to circumstances, may be a continuing consensus-based process, *inter alia*, in the context of the review of United Nations disarmament machinery.

7. It was also felt that complementarity of efforts, as appropriate, between the First Committee of the General Assembly, the Conference on Disarmament and the Disarmament Commission in the consideration of substantive issues could be an asset for all the disarmament forums involved.

Annex II

Establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at among the States of the region concerned

Paper presented by the Chairman

A. General overview

1. Recent developments in international relations, and in particular in the fields of disarmament and non-proliferation, have contributed to increased efforts for the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at among the States of the region concerned and to a greater awareness of their importance for promoting a more stable strategic environment.

2. Nuclear-weapon-free zones have ceased to be an exception in the global strategic environment. There are at present 114 States signatories of treaties establishing nuclear-weapon-free zones. With the addition of Antarctica, demilitarized under the Antarctic Treaty, they cover more than 50 per cent of the Earth's land mass.

3. The number of initiatives actively pursuing the establishment of new nuclear-weapon-free zones is a clear testimony of their relevance in the present international agenda for disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation.

4. The issue of nuclear-weapon-free zones has attracted the interest of the international community for several decades. In 1975, an Ad Hoc Group of Qualified Governmental Experts for the Study of Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones, under the auspices of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament, prepared a comprehensive study of the question of nuclear-weapon-free zones in all its aspects (A/10027/Add.1).

5. The Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly affirmed that the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones on the basis of agreements or arrangements freely arrived at among the States of the zone concerned, the full compliance with those agreements or arrangements, thus ensuring that the zones are genuinely free from nuclear weapons, and respect for such zones by nuclear-weapon States constitute an important disarmament measure.

6. In 1993, the Disarmament Commission unanimously adopted "Guidelines and recommendations for regional approaches to disarmament within the context of global security", which included a substantive consideration on zones free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction.

7. Numerous resolutions have been regularly adopted by the General Assembly regarding the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones in different regions of the world reflecting the continual interest of the international community in the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones.

8. Existing nuclear-weapon-free zones have played a major role in strengthening the international regime of nuclear non-proliferation and towards realizing the objective of nuclear disarmament.

9. The Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco) was opened for signature on 14 February 1967, thus creating for the

first time in history a nuclear-weapon-free zone and serving as a model for the promotion of other nuclear-weapon-free zones.

10. The South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Rarotonga) was opened for signature by South Pacific Forum States on 6 August 1985.

11. The Treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon Free Zone (Treaty of Bangkok) was opened for signature on 15 December 1995 as part of a zone of peace, freedom and neutrality in South-East Asia.

12. The African Nuclear-Weapon-Free-Zone Treaty (Treaty of Pelindaba) was opened for signature on 11 April 1996.

13. All nuclear-weapon States have signed the relevant protocols to the Treaties of Tlatelolco, Rarotonga and Pelindaba. Consultations are currently under way between the nuclear-weapon States and the South-East Asian States in relation to the Protocol to the Treaty of Bangkok.

14. The purpose of this consideration of nuclear-weapon-free zones is to assist in the global efforts, in particular through the establishment and effective implementation of nuclear-weapon-free zones, to work towards the ultimate goal of eliminating nuclear weapons.

15. Each nuclear-weapon-free zone is the product of specific regional circumstances and reflects the diversity of regional situations. Furthermore, the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones is a dynamic process. The experience of the existing nuclear-weapon-free zones clearly shows these are not static structures.

16. The purposes and objectives, principles and guidelines that follow can only be regarded as generally accepted considerations at this stage of the development of nuclear-weapon-free zones, formulated on the basis of existing practices and experiences.

B. Purposes and objectives

17. The establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones serves multiple purposes. The significant contribution of nuclear-weapon-free zones to the consolidation of the international non-proliferation regime and to peace and security, both regionally and globally, has been universally recognized.

18. Nuclear-weapon-free zones contribute to strengthening the security of States belonging to the zones.

19. Nuclear-weapon-free zones are important disarmament measures which serve the primary purpose of enhancing regional peace and security and, by extension, international peace and security. They are also considered to be important confidence-building measures at a regional level.

20. Nuclear-weapon-free zones have made important contributions to nuclear disarmament and more generally towards general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control.

21. Nuclear-weapon-free zones can also constitute a means of expressing and promoting commonly held values in the areas of nuclear disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation.

22. Nuclear-weapon-free zones can be a crucial instrument in promoting the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and towards strengthening the nuclear non-proliferation regime.

23. For the States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, nuclear-weapon-free zones are important complementary instruments to the Treaty, which explicitly recognizes, in article VII, the right of any group of States to conclude regional treaties in order to assure the total absence of nuclear weapons in their respective territories. The Decision on Principles and Objectives for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament of 1995 reaffirmed the conviction of States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons that the establishment of internationally recognized nuclear-weapon-free zones, on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at among the States of the region concerned, enhances global and regional peace and security.

24. Nuclear-weapon-free zones significantly reinforce and expand upon the nuclear non-proliferation obligations of the non-nuclear-weapon States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons not to acquire nuclear weapons and to develop and use nuclear energy only for peaceful purposes under International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards.

25. Nuclear-weapon-free zones can be a valuable complement to the international regime for the prohibition of any nuclear-weapon-test explosion or any other nuclear explosion.

26. By signing the relevant protocols to the treaties establishing nuclear-weapon-free zones, the nuclear-weapon States undertake legally binding commitments not to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against nuclear-weapon-free zone parties.

27. Existing nuclear-weapon-free zones serve as an example for creating new nuclear-weapon-free zones. Preceding nuclear-weapon-free zones have assisted in providing support and expertise to States in the process of establishing nuclear-weapon-free zones in other regions.

28. Nuclear-weapon-free zones may serve as a framework for international cooperation on peaceful uses of nuclear energy in the region, thereby promoting the economic, scientific and technological development of States parties.

29. They may also serve to promote international cooperation to keep the regions concerned free of environmental pollution f rom radioactive wastes and other radioactive matter.

C. Principles and guidelines

30. Nuclear-weapon-free zones should be established on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at among the States of the region concerned.

31. The initiative for the creation of a nuclear-weapon-free zone should come solely from the States in the region concerned. The international community, in particular through the United Nations, could assist States in the region concerned in their efforts towards the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone.

32. All States whose participation is deemed important should participate in the negotiation for the establishment of the zone.

33. In the process of establishing such zones, all relevant specific characteristics of the region concerned should be taken into account.

34. The establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone should be compatible with the existing regional or international security arrangements and should not affect the inherent right of individual or collective self-defence guaranteed in the Charter of the United Nations.

35. A nuclear-weapon-free zone should be consistent with existing international instruments of nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament.

36. The obligations of all States parties to a nuclear-weapon-free zone should be clearly defined and legally binding and States parties should fully comply with those agreements.

37. The provisions of a nuclear-weapon-free zone should be in conformity with the principles and rules of international law, including those under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, in particular the freedom of the high seas and the rights of passage through maritime zones or spaces.

38. A nuclear-weapon-free zone should provide for the effective prohibition of development, control over or possession of any nuclear explosive device for any purpose by States parties, and should provide for States parties not to allow the stationing in the zone of application of any nuclear explosive device.

39. A nuclear-weapon-free zone should provide for effective verification of compliance with the obligations assumed by its parties, *inter alia*, by the application of comprehensive IAEA safeguards (based on IAEA document INFCIRC/153 as strengthened by INFCIRC/540) to all nuclear activities in the zone.

40. A nuclear-weapon-free zone should form a clearly defined geographical entity. Its geographical scope should take into account any relevant territorial dispute between States parties to the nuclear-weapon-free zone treaties and neighbouring States.

41. The establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone should be supported by all countries concerned and States outside the region should respect the status of such zones. The cooperation of all the nuclear-weapon States and their respect and support for the relevant protocols is necessary for the maximum effectiveness of nuclear-weapon-free zones and the relevant protocols.

42. The nuclear-weapon States are called upon in turn to undertake obligations towards nuclear-weapon-free zones, including strictly respecting the status of the nuclear-weapon-free zones and entering into legally binding commitments, through the signature of relevant protocols, not to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against nuclear-weapon-free zone parties.

43. A nuclear-weapon-free zone should promote international cooperation on peaceful uses of nuclear energy in the zone, so as to promote the socio-economic, scientific and technological development of States parties.

D. The way ahead

44. All existing nuclear-weapon-free zones should come into force as soon as possible and the process of signature and ratification of the treaties and their protocols by all relevant States should be completed.

45. The further establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones in regions of the world, especially in regions of tension, would greatly enhance peace and security in all regions and internationally. The international community may encourage efforts at securing unanimous support of the States concerned.

46. Cooperation and coordination between States parties and signatories of nuclear-weapon-free zone treaties should be actively pursued to promote their common goals. Nuclear-weapon-free zone members might also work together to share experiences with and support the efforts of States in other regions to establish new nuclear-weapon-free zones.

47. States parties and signatories of nuclear-weapon-free zone treaties see considerable scope for broadening political links between these nuclear-weapon-free zones to achieve greater progress in freeing the entire southern hemisphere and adjacent areas covered by those treaties from nuclear weapons.

48. The international community may consider further initiatives, proposals and issues linked to nuclear-weapon-free zones and should be more actively engaged in the consideration of all aspects of the establishment of a single-State nuclear-weapon-free zone.

Annex III

Fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament

Paper presented by the Chairman

Recalling the decision of the General Assembly at its fifty-second session, in its resolution 52/38 F of 9 December 1997, adopted without a vote, to convene, subject to the emergence of a consensus on its objectives and agenda, the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament and, subject to the outcome of the deliberations at the 1998 substantive session of the Disarmament Commission, to set an exact date for and to decide on organizational matters relating to the convening of the special session,

Recognizing that the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament should review the developments in the field of disarmament and international security that have taken place since the first special session on disarmament, bearing in mind the Final Document of that session and stressing the principles and priorities set out therein as a guide for the work of the United Nations and its Member States in the field of disarmament and international security,

Emphasizing, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, that the United Nations has a central role and primary responsibility in the field of disarmament, and that this role, as well as the disarmament machinery established by the General Assembly at its tenth special session, should be further strengthened,

Welcoming, as a step in that direction, the re-establishment of the Department for Disarmament Affairs, as referred to in General Assembly resolution 52/220 of 22 December 1997,

Seeking to provide, at the fourth special session devoted to disarmament, for a comprehensive, thorough discussion and review, as well as an assessment of all issues in the field of disarmament and international security, including those of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, conventional weapons, non-proliferation in all its aspects and disarmament machinery,

The 1998 substantive session of the Disarmament Commission *has identified the following*:

(a) The objectives of the fourth special session should include, *inter alia*:

(i) Seizing the opportunities of the present, preserving and building upon the achievements of the past in the field of disarmament and setting the future course of action in order to strengthen international peace and security;

(ii) Conducting an assessment of the implementation of the programme of action of the Final Document of the first special session devoted to disarmament, reviewing and assessing the international situation in the context of fundamental changes after the cold war and identifying new challenges and ways and means to address them;

(iii) Setting principles, guidelines and priorities for future disarmament efforts;

(iv) Establishing an agreed programme of action aimed at the future in the field of disarmament that would primarily strengthen the central role of the United Nations and promote multilateralism in the field of disarmament;

(b) The agenda of the fourth special session should include, *inter alia*:

Implementation of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, the first special session devoted to disarmament;

The international situation since the first special session, the post-cold-war era and trends at global, regional and subregional levels;

Nuclear disarmament;

Non-proliferation in all its aspects;

Other weapons of mass destruction;

Conventional weapons issues;

Regional disarmament;

Confidence- and security-building measures and transparency;

Questions pertaining to the universality of existing agreements;

Verification and compliance issues;

The relationship between disarmament and development;

Prevention of an arms race in outer space;

General and complete disarmament;

Disarmament concepts and terminology;

Disarmament machinery;

An agreed programme of action.

Annex IV

Guidelines on conventional arms control/limitation and disarmament, with particular emphasis on consolidation of peace in the context of General Assembly resolution 51/45 N

Paper presented by the Chairman

24 April 1998

Suggested scope/framework for future Guidelines as proposed in the title of the Working Group

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I. Introduction

1. The mandate of this Working Group flows, in part, from General Assembly resolution 51/45 N of 10 December 1996, which places particular emphasis on the consolidation of peace through practical disarmament measures. The Working Group is also tasked with considering, in parallel, broader conventional arms control/limitation and disarmament measures. In that connection, the Working Group took into account the report of the Secretary-General on the consolidation of peace through practical disarmament measures (A/52/289) submitted pursuant to resolution 51/45 N, as well as General Assembly resolution 52/38 G of 9 December 1997.

2. The conflicts of today highlight, on the one hand, the need for a comprehensive and integrated approach towards certain practical disarmament measures, particularly with regard to small arms and light weapons, and, on the other hand, further initiatives in the area of conventional arms control/limitation and disarmament. The illicit arms trade, in particular, continues to have disproportionately large effects for the internal security and socio-economic development of affected States.

II. General framework

3. Guidelines are neither mandatory nor prescriptive and they should be adopted by consensus.

4. Guidelines should emphasize the consolidation of peace in post-conflict situations. They could also be helpful, where applicable and appropriate, in promoting peace and stability generally.

5. The Guidelines may be of assistance to:

(a) The United Nations;

(b) Relevant international organizations;

(c) Regional organizations within their mandates and competences;

(d) Governments;

(e) Parties to a conflict in the context of peace agreements;

in situations where they agree that they might be appropriate and applicable, for example, when assistance is requested from the United Nations or another competent regional or international organization.

6. The Guidelines could draw, *inter alia*, from the relevant experience gained and lessons learned by the United Nations and other relevant regional and international organizations in the area of consolidation of peace.

7. The Guidelines should:

(a) Encompass practical disarmament measures which could have relevance to a conflict which is approaching solution, to a recently ended conflict and, as a consequence, to preventing a conflict from re-emerging. Such measures could include arms collection and destruction, demining and demobilization;

(b) Encompass other conventional arms control/limitation and disarmament measures, such as, *inter alia*, arms control and confidence-building measures, including

transparency in armaments, the combating of the illicit arms trade (in particular, in small arms and light weapons).

8. The Working Group should not duplicate work being carried out in other areas of United Nations activity or other international forums. The outcome of the Informal Open-ended Working Group on an Agenda for Peace, the report of the United Nations Panel of Governmental Experts on Small Arms, the report of the United Nations international study on firearm regulation and the report of the Committee of Experts on the review and operation of the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms may be relevant and, where appropriate, could be taken account of in the Guidelines.

9. The importance of an appropriately coordinated approach between practical disarmament measures and the broader economic, political, social and humanitarian aspects of post-conflict rehabilitation, which fall outside the competence of the Disarmament Commission, should be emphasized.

III. Principles

10. The drafting of principles would emerge from the discussion of practical disarmament measures and measures in the broader context of conventional arms control/limitation. Some of the principles already agreed by consensus within the Disarmament Commission are relevant and could usefully be drawn on. These are:

(a) Guidelines for international arms transfers in the context of General Assembly resolution 46/36 H of 6 December 1991 (A/51/42, annex I), adopted in 1996;.

(b) Guidelines and recommendations for regional approaches to disarmament within the context of global security (A/48/42, annex II), adopted in 1993;

(c) Guidelines for the study on conventional disarmament (A/51/182, chap. II.D), adopted in 1982.

11. The following lists of possible further measures, in parts IV and V below, are merely indicative and not intended to be exhaustive. Additional measures could be considered at subsequent sessions of the Working Group. The measures proposed below are subject to further reflection and are without prejudice to the positions of Member States.

IV. Practical disarmament measures*

Framework for effective implementation of practical disarmament measures

12. The best framework for a comprehensive and integrated approach to post-conflict practical disarmament measures with a view to a durable consolidation of peace is a peace accord that addresses the root causes of the conflict.

13. Democratization and good governance, the rehabilitation of the economic and social system, protection of human rights and the rule of law and wide political participation are essential benchmarks for the effective consolidation of peace.

* Full and complete discussion was not possible on this part of the Chairman's paper.

14. Practical disarmament measures should to the extent possible be specified in peace accords between parties concerned. A clear delineation of the responsibilities of all parties concerned in the peace accord (those involved in the conflict and, if appropriate, governmental, regional, international, United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations) would facilitate the effective implementation of practical disarmament measures. Such measures should be applied in an interactive and interrelated process, and be prepared in advance in a systematic manner.

15. The application of practical disarmament measures should be submitted to the consideration of States Members of the United Nations for their implementation.

A. Practical disarmament measures

1. Collection, control, disposal and destruction of arms, especially small arms and light weapons

16. An early and accurate baseline inventory and periodic reassessment of the arms in the possession of the parties to the agreement, in accordance with the peace accord, is a prerequisite to an efficient arms collection, control, disposal and destruction process.

17. Following the collection, control and secure storage of arms, it is necessary to determine which arms are surplus. Surplus arms are those weapons deemed to be surplus to the legitimate defence requirements of the State as defined by the peace accord:

(a) There should be a secure collection and storage of arms deemed excessive by the peace accord from the demobilized military forces or those in civilian hands, with the possible use of incentive programmes, such as "turn-in", "buy-back" or "swap" programmes, or through enforcement measures agreed upon by the parties;

(b) Rapid, reliable and transparent destruction of arms in accordance with the provisions of the peace accord is an indispensable step to rendering the peace agreement concrete. A public display of the destruction of such weapons can help to dramatize the enactment of peace and to consolidate it;

(c) In certain cases, where it is deemed under the terms of the peace agreement that there are arms in excess of the legitimate security and defence needs of the parties, it should be possible to dispose of such arms through transfer to another State for its legitimate defence requirements under strict and transparent arms control measures. Where it is not possible to dispose of arms in such a manner, the arms in question should be destroyed.

18. As part of an effective post-conflict arms control programme, arms embargoes declared by the United Nations or regionally agreed upon import/export moratoriums should be implemented through, *inter alia*:

(a) Cooperation between neighbouring security, police and customs organizations, including the assistance of National Contact Centres of the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL);

(b) Combined border guard operations;

(c) International and coordinated United Nations support for an adherence to measures agreed;

(d) Regional or international agreements to combat illicit arms trafficking.

2. Demining

19. All parties should agree to cease laying mines as part of a ceasefire.

20. In post-conflict situations where anti-personnel mines have been deployed, there is an urgent need for national programmes agreed by the parties to destroy or ensure the destruction of mines in mined areas.

21. The collection of mines and other explosive ordnance should be discouraged and their destruction ensured *in situ*.

22. The parties to the conflict should provide information on the mines laid during the conflict. Measures such as delineation of the mine-planted areas and posting of warning signs should be taken to prevent further victimization of civilians.

23. A mine awareness education plan and procedures for reporting unexploded ordnance and artifacts should be set out and geared towards both demobilized soldiers and civilians.

24. The coordination role of the United Nations in the field of mine awareness, training, surveying, mine detection and clearance, scientific research on mine detection and clearance technology and information on and distribution of medical equipment and supplies should be fulfilled.

3. Demobilization

25. An early and accurate assessment of the armed forces to be separated, assembled and demobilized is a prerequisite to an effective demobilization programme.

26. The period between the signature of an agreement and the establishment of the cantonment could be used profitably by neutral parties of observation and control of a ceasefire.

27. Demobilization agreements should be implemented via a demobilization centre or cantonment, established for a limited period of time, and should:

(a) Have the necessary medical, logistical (food, housing, etc.) and administrative support and facilities or programmes;

(b) Be clearly separated from humanitarian centres established, for example, for returning refugees.

28. Registration and disarmament of combatants should occur simultaneously, if at all feasible.

4. Reintegration of former combatants

29. Advance planning for integration, at least for the short to medium term, should be undertaken well before the demobilization process starts. Before the combatants are disarmed and demobilized, it is necessary to ensure that a reintegration programme has been prepared and made ready for implementation in step with demobilization.

30. Establishment, training and operations of combined integrated security forces on a voluntary basis should be considered.

31. Programmes for the training, education and guidance for the reintegration of former combatants into civil society are needed.

32. Resettlement of returning refugees should be considered as an integral part of the reintegration process.

33. Sustainable employment should be promoted through an integrated approach involving interlinked activities in the areas of employment-intensive rehabilitation and reconstruction programmes at the community level, skill and entrepreneurship training and small enterprise development.

34. Expenditures related to reintegration of combatants should be reflected in the economic programme of a country and domestic resources should be secured for such activities.

35. The needs of different target groups among the reintegrated combatants should be identified and options designed for integration to suit local conditions.

5. Conversion in post-conflict situations

36. Establishment, training and operation of security forces that include former combatants on a voluntary basis can help to build confidence in an unbiased, non-discriminatory security force for the protection of all parties.

37. Where appropriate, the conversion of military facilities for civilian use should be provided for.

38. Administrative capacity and infrastructure that were damaged during the conflict should be rebuilt in a process of conversion from a society at war to a society at peace.

6. Regional and international financial and technical assistance

39. Regional and international financial and technical assistance in rebuilding infrastructure, civil society and in economic rehabilitation is necessary for the implementation of practical disarmament measures and should include the following:

(a) Early involvement of international financial institutions is recommended;

(b) Assistance should be provided for national and local measures for the collection, control, disposal and destruction of arms, demobilization and reintegration of former combatants, as well as for conversion measures in post-conflict situations;

(c) Assistance for demobilization measures can help to ensure their short-term and long-term success;

(d) Assistance should be provided for mine awareness programmes, mine clearance programmes and victim assistance. Assistance should include access to new technologies for mine detection and removal;

(e) Assistance is especially important for reintegration measures aimed at education and training and for the creation of employment opportunities or alternative employment opportunities for discharged combatants;

(f) The United Nations should provide assistance for States in seeking regional and international financial and technical support in the implementation of practical disarmament measures.

B. Other elements which could facilitate the smooth implementation of practical disarmament measures and the consolidation of peace

Confidence-building in post-conflict situations

40. Safeguards to ensure the reliable implementation of the provisions of the peace agreement in a post-conflict consolidation of peace, including secure disposal and destruction of weapons, should include the following:

(a) Combined/integrated monitoring, observation and control;

(b) Transparency and verification by a facilitator where appropriate and agreed upon by the parties to the peace agreement or by international supervision if the parties agree;

(c) A joint commission agreed between parties to mediate differences over interpretation of the terms of the peace agreement.

41. Implementation of agreed measures can be enhanced by the use of social and other incentives, including:

(a) Humanitarian, medical and logistical aid programmes for former combatants (including families) to encourage and sustain the handover of arms;

(b) Safeguards as to their physical protection;

(c) Amnesties;

(d) Reintegration into civilian and professional life, including job training.

42. The re-establishment of public security is an essential step:

(a) A key measure to enhance that process is the creation and training of reduced and integrated military services and integrated security and police forces;

(b) National security forces should have adequate technical equipment and be appropriately trained to enable them to conduct operations efficiently and in conformity with national legislation and established norms of international law.

43. To sensitize the public to the peace process, to assist the reconciliation process and to create confidence in the equitable implementation of the peace agreement, it is recommended that:

(a) An effective, independent public information campaign be established;

(b) National dialogue should be encouraged and intensified through reconciliation programmes in post-conflict peace-building;

(c) Measures to strengthen coordination among regional Governments, international organizations and non-governmental organizations should be implemented for the smooth transition from emergency humanitarian assistance, post-conflict assistance to long-term development.

V. Other conventional arms control/limitation and disarmament measures for the consolidation of peace*

A. National measures

44. States should observe high standards of responsibility in the transfer of weapons, including small arms and light weapons as well as ammunition. They should refrain from the transfer of arms other than for the legitimate defence and security requirements of the recipient. Particular restraint should be shown in transfers to countries or regions in post-conflict peace-building situations.

45. States should limit weapons procurement to the legitimate needs of self-defence and internal security.

46. States should have in place appropriate legislation and effective administrative regulations on arms export, import, transit, re-export and diversion within recipient States.

47. States should work towards the introduction of appropriate national legislation, administrative regulations and licensing requirements that define conditions under which firearms can be acquired, used and traded by private persons. In particular, they should consider the prohibition of unrestricted trade and private ownership of small arms and light weapons constructed for use in war, such as automatic guns (e.g., assault rifles and machine-guns).

48. States should ensure that arms production, trade and holdings (State-owned and private) are under strict and effective control through appropriate licensing, supervision and inspection.

49. States should ensure that manufacturers apply appropriate technical markings on weapons, particularly small arms and light weapons, as an integral part of the production process. Those markings should indicate the country of origin and the manufacturer, so as to assist law enforcement agencies in combating illicit arms trafficking.

50. States should undertake to secure their holdings against losses resulting from corruption, theft and withholding through appropriate organizational, technical and personnel measures.

51. States should ensure the effectiveness and professional conduct of security forces and authorities (customs, border-control, police, criminal prosecution) involved in the implementation of weapons control measures, through appropriate selection of personnel, training and technical equipment.

B. Regional/international cooperation and transparency

52. States should explore the scope for coordination of their national regulations on arms export/import, including relevant customs procedures.

53. States should consider the establishment of the declaration of post-conflict moratoriums on the import/export and manufacture of small arms and light weapons.

54. States and their national authorities involved in weapons control measures should reinforce their collective efforts to prevent and combat illicit trafficking of arms, particularly small arms, through:

* No discussion was possible on this part of the Chairman's paper.

(a) Exchange of information on illegal activities (sources, routes, caches);

(b) Combined police, border-guard, intelligence and customs operations as required;

(c) Technical and training assistance;

(d) Establishment of national points of contact;

(e) Improved judicial cooperation, including to combat the violation of national gun laws and regulations.

55. All States should participate in the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms in order to ensure its effective operation.

56. States should consider appropriate regional transparency arrangements, including possible regional arms registers, confidence-building and arms control measures to restrict and reduce the production, transfer and holdings of weapons, taking into account the particular regional situation and legitimate self-defence and internal security needs.

57. States should exchange information on their national policies, legislation and administrative control over arms production, procurement, ownership and trade, with particular emphasis on small arms and light weapons.

58. States should consider the establishment of voluntary, global and non-discriminatory codes of conduct for conventional arms transfers with a view to promoting restraint and responsibility in conventional arms transfers.

C. Role of the United Nations

59. The United Nations could coordinate and facilitate the exchange of information between States.

60. On the request of the State concerned, the United Nations could provide coordination and assistance in the development of programmes to promote and implement national and regional disarmament and arms control measures in the context of consolidation of peace.

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